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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/674,664	09/29/2003	William J. Brosnan	IGT1P024C1/P-247CON	5022

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EXAMINER	
COBURN, CORBETT B	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
3714	

DATE MAILED: 10/24/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

6

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/674,664	BROSNAN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Corbett B. Coburn	3714	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *26 April 2005*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *44-68* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *44-68* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *29 sep 03* is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 44-47, 51-55, 57-63 & 66-68 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Roffman et al. (US Patent Number 6,375,568).

Claim 44: Roffman teaches a plurality of gaming machines (each with its own processor, cabinet, coin slots, etc.). Each has a display for a first presentation of a first outcome of a first game of chance played on that machine and a second display for displaying a second outcome of a second game of chance played on a second machine. (Col 6, 26-28) There is a communications interface for communicating the results between machines via a network. (Fig 1 & discussion thereof.)

Claim 45: Roffman teaches that the outcome presentations may be displayed on separate portions of the same display. (Col 6, 26-28)

Claim 46: The results of the game played on each gaming machine are combined into a combined presentation and displayed on each gaming machine. The combined presentation is displayed as theme game (72). In one embodiment, the group of players must "steal" 15 gold bars (73) from vault (72). Every time a player spins and obtains the proper symbol combination, a gold bar is removed from the vault. (Col 13, 51-55) Thus

the result presentation of several game machines are combined into a single result presentation.

Claim 47: Roffman teaches a game in which there is interaction between a presentation element representing the police and a presentation element representing a gang (i.e., there is a car chase). Some of the results generated by the players help the gang, while others help the police. Thus the first and second elements appear to interact during the combined presentation. (Col 14, 27-64) In another embodiment, the presentation elements are cars involved in a demolition derby. These cars crash into each other based on game results. These crashes are shown in action window (82). (Col 17, 18-29) These car crashes are interaction between first and second elements during the combine presentation.

Claim 51: The bonus game can be triggered by an event in the combined presentation. When 15 bars of gold are stolen, a bonus game is triggered.

Claim 52: In the demolition derby game, one or more indicia are used to distinguish between the first and second objects in the combine presentation -- the cars look different.

Claim 53: Each player has an associated car.

Claim 54: The first and second objects (cars) are from their respective presentations.

Claim 55: The combined presentation is displayed on all machines simultaneously.

Claim 57: Roffman teaches a network. (Fig 1) A network must either have wired links, wireless links, or a combination of the two.

Claims 58-60: Roffman teaches that there may be an arbitrary number of displays sharing a joint presentation. (Fig 1)

Claims 61 & 62: The amount of the wagers and their timing may be different.

Claim 63: The triggering of a bonus game presented on all of the machines may depend on events generated on each machine. The stealing of gold bars is accomplished by generating certain results on the various machines. Thus each machine may generate an event that leads to a bonus game.

Claims 66 & 67: Roffman discloses a slot game as a first and second game.

Claim 68: The first presentation is displayed on a first portion of the second display and the second presentation on a second portion of the second display. (Fig 3)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 48-50, 56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Roffman as applied to claim 46 and further in view of Pierce et al. (US Patent Number 6,047,963).

Claim 48: Roffman teaches the invention substantially as claimed, but fails to teach a pachinko game. Pierce teaches a linking a bank of slot machines to play a video pachinko bonus game. (Col 3, 14-16) Pachinko is an extremely popular game. Roffman

states that other theme games may be used. (Col 18, 8-10) It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Roffman in view of Pierce to implement a video pachinko theme game in which each element is a pachinko object resulting from a wager on its respective game machine in order to take advantage of the popularity of pachinko.

Claim 49: Roffman teaches collisions between presentation elements (i.e., the cars in the demolition derby). Clearly, in a pachinko theme game, the collisions would take place between pachinko balls instead of cars.

Claim 50: In a physical pachinko game, a collision between balls would alter the trajectory of the colliding balls. While Pierce does not specifically teach that a collision between balls would alter the trajectory of the colliding balls, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to alter the trajectories in order to more closely mimic a physical pachinko game.

Claim 56: Roffman teaches the invention substantially as claimed, but fails to teach a shared display that is visible from all machines. Pierce teaches a shared display that is visible from all machines. (Col 3, 14-18) Large displays are known to attract the attention of passersby, thus encouraging them to play. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Roffman in view of Pierce to include a shared display that is visible from all machines in order to attract the attention of passersby, thus encouraging them to play.

5. Claims 64 & 65 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Roffman as applied to claim 63 above, and further in view of Seelig et al. (US Patent Number 5,664,998).

Claims 64 & 65: Roffman teaches the invention substantially as claimed, but fails to teach a bonus game triggered by a wager amount input on each machine that totals more than a threshold amount. Seelig teaches a bonus game that is triggered when any amount is bet. (Abstract) Thus a single coin would be the threshold amount. Seelig teaches that this creates competition between the players. (Col 2, 36-41) This attracts players. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Roffman in view of Seelig to include a bonus game triggered by a wager amount input on each machine that totals more than a threshold amount in order to foster competition between the players, thus attracting players.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-9, 16 & 17 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

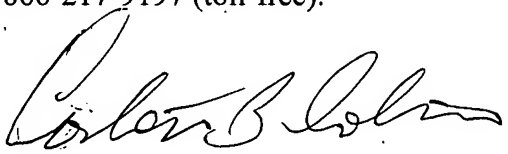
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Corbett B. Coburn whose telephone number is (571) 272-4447. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-5:30, Monday-Friday, alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Cheryl J. Tyler can be reached on (571) 272-4834. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Corbett B. Coburn
Examiner
Art Unit 3714